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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,674	12/06/2004	Eberhard Ammermann	5000-0107PUS1	7303

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EXAMINER

QAZI, SABIHA NAIM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/03/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/516,674	AMMERMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sabiha Qazi	1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

Non-Final Office Action

Claims 1, 2 and 4-14 are pending. No claim is allowed at this time. Amendments are entered.

Summary of this Office Action dated Tuesday, June 19, 2007

1. Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114
2. Information Disclosure Statement
3. Copending Applications
4. Specification
5. 35 USC § 103(a) Rejection
6. Data in the Specification
7. Response to Remarks
8. Communication

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/5/2007 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Copending Applications

Applicants must bring to the attention of the examiner, or other Office official involved with the examination of a particular application, information within their knowledge as to other copending United States applications, which are "material to

patentability" of the application in question. MPEP 2001.06(b). See *Dayco Products Inc. v. Total Containment Inc.*, 66 USPQ2d 1801 (CA FC 2003).

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 – Obviousness Rejection

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 2 and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MULLER et al.¹ and WAKAI et al.². Both the references teach fungicidal mixtures, which embrace presently, claimed invention. See the entire documents.

MULLER et al. teaches a fungicidal mixture containing a benzophenone of formula (I), which is (component (2) in present claims), a carbamates of formula (II), (component (4) in present claims) and azoles derivatives (component 3 in present claims) in synergistic amounts. See the abstract, pages 1-4, Table 1 on page 5, page 7, and lines 39-45 on page 8. For synergistic activity see lines 19-28, on page 10, 40-46 on page 11 and 12, Table 1 on pages 13-20.

¹ Canadian Patent Application 2,434,684.

² European Patent Application 1,077,028 A1

The reference does not teach the combination of the compounds of component as presently claimed.

WAKAI et al. teaches benzamideoxime compounds (component (1) in present claims) containing fungicidal mixtures. See the entire document especially paragraph [0002] and [0003] on page 2 and paragraph [0004]

Instant claims differ from the prior art in claiming a synergistic combination of three components.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to prepare additional beneficial compositions useful as fungicides by combining the components 1 to 3 and optionally 4 because all the compounds are known as excellent fungicides. It is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose in order to form a third composition that is to be used for the very same purpose; the idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art. In re Kerkhoven, 205 USPQ 1069.

Furthermore, some combinations are synergistic as taught by the prior art.

As has been decided by the court, a combination, for the same purpose, of one additive explicitly disclosed in the prior art and another suggested by the prior art is at least *prima facie* obvious. In re Susi, 169 USPQ 423. There is nothing inventive in a

composition of old ingredients of known properties with each ingredient functioning individually as expected. *In re Sussaman* 58 USPQ 262.

Furthermore, because of each compound appears to be well known in the prior art, it would appear that the combination of the compounds would have been obvious in view of MPEP 2144.06 and see *Ex parte Quadranti*, 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992).

See *Ex parte Quadranti* where it was held that

“Use of materials in combination, each of which is known to function for intended purpose, is generally held to be *prima facie* obvious, and in instant case, use of combination of herbicides is so notoriously well known as to be capable of being taken by official notice; generalizations such as Colby formula are not particularly useful in determining whether synergism has been demonstrated, since formula inherently results in expectation of less than additive effect for combination of herbicides, since there is no evidence that such approach is considered valid by significant number of ordinarily skilled workers in relevant area of technology, and since it could be reasonably argued that in most cases, additive or better than additive results could be expected for combination of herbicides.”

“There is no single, appropriate test for determining whether synergism has been demonstrated for chemical combination; rather, facts shown in each case must be analyzed to determine whether chosen method has clearly and convincingly demonstrated existence of synergism or unobvious result”.

“Assuming arguendo that the differences in values presented are statistically significant, there is no evidence that they represent a true, practical advantage. *In re Freeman*, 474 F.2d 1318, 177 USPQ 139 (CCPA 1973); *In re Klosak*, 455 F.2d 1077, 173 USPQ 14 (CCPA 1972); *In re D'Ancicco*, 439 F.2d 1244, 169 USPQ 303 (CCPA 1971). Also, prescinding from the Colby formula test, which as we have already indicated is at best controversial and in our view probably invalid, there is no evidence that the differences are unexpected. *In re Merck*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed.Cir. 1986); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed.Cir. 1985); *In re Freeman*, *supra*”.

In absence of any criticality and/or unexpected results presently claimed invention would have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

In the light of the forgoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Declaration

Declaration filed by Applicant has been fully considered but was not found persuasive therefore rejection is maintained. Applicant argues that the activity of the combination of three active ingredients as claimed is synergistic (as presented in Table 5) and would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art. Examiner respectfully disagrees because addition of a third active ingredient to a mixture of two is expected to increase the activity. The difference between calculated and observed is not synergistic in Exhibit A (Table 6). In two combinations it is 12 and 16, which may be considered synergistic.

Data In the Specification

The data disclosed in specification has been fully considered but was not found persuasive. Since the compounds are known and the synergistic data as presented in the specification is not considered synergistic. The margin of error in the calculations is not disclosed. The additional data of two components and the synergistic and additional data of the three components is not significantly different.

Response to Arguments

- Rejection under 103 (a) is maintained for the same reasons as set forth in our previous action and as cited above. Arguments were fully considered but are not found persuasive because the data presented in the declaration is not synergistic for the reasons cited above.
- As has been decided by the court, a combination, for the same purpose, of one additive explicitly disclosed in the prior art and another suggested by the prior art is at least prima facie obvious. In re Susi, 169 USPQ 423. There is nothing inventive in a composition of old ingredients of known properties with each ingredient functioning individually as expected. In re Sussaman 58 USPQ 262.
- Furthermore, because of each compound appears to be well known in the prior art, it would appear that the combination of the compounds would have been obvious in view of MPEP 2144.06 and see Ex parte Quadranti, 25 USPQ2d 1071 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992).
- There is no single, appropriate test for determining whether synergism has been demonstrated for chemical combination; rather, facts shown in each case must be analyzed to determine whether chosen method has clearly and convincingly demonstrated existence of synergism or unobvious result use of materials in combination, each of which is known to function for

intended purpose, is generally held to be *prima facie* obvious, and in instant case, use of combination of herbicides is so notoriously well known as to be capable of being taken by official notice; generalizations such as Colby formula are not particularly useful in determining whether synergism has been demonstrated, since formula inherently results in expectation of less than additive effect for combination of herbicides, since there is no evidence that such approach is considered valid by significant number of ordinarily skilled workers in relevant area of technology, and since it could be reasonably argued that in most cases, additive or better than additive results could be expected for combination of herbicides.

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sabiha Qazi, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0622. The examiner can normally be reached on any business day.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SABIHA QAZI, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER